



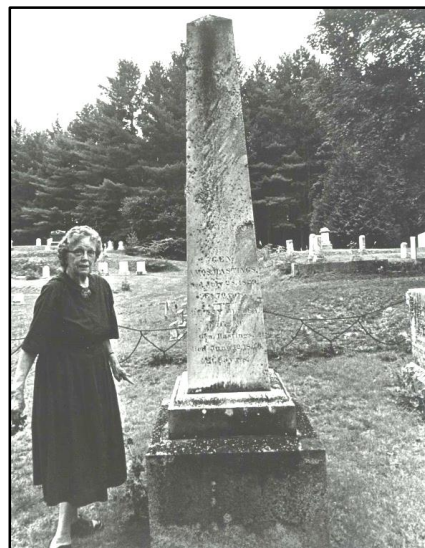
THE COURIER

News from the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society

Vol. 39, No. 1; SPRING 2016

BHS Observes 50th Anniversary!

The origins of the Bethel Historical Society and its notable museum, library and archival collections extend back to the nineteenth century when, in 1855, thirty local citizens gathered for an “antiquarian supper” with a desire to discuss, collect, and preserve the town’s history. This occasion, and a number of similar events that followed, were faithfully recorded in the *Oxford Democrat* and in the 1874 *Bethel Centennial* publication by the town’s earliest historian, Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True (1812-1887). However, nothing toward the formation of an official organization was attempted until a century later when, in 1963, the Bethel Library Association—having become the depository of various materials relating to the area’s past—explored the possibility of establishing a historical society or historical museum at the library. Although these plans never materialized, several of the library trustees, plus other interested citizens, were instrumental in establishing the Bethel Historical Society at the library on May 31, 1966. As recorded by Eva Bean (1895-1969; photo, right), the Secretary and in many ways the driving force behind the new Society, the eighteen charter members were Bryant Bean, Eva Bean, Margaret Carter Bean, Elizabeth Mason Carter, Philip and Mary Chadbourne, Rosalind R. Chapman, Edith H. Eypper, Agnes H. Haines, Floribel Haines, Ralph Hall, Edith K. Howe, Geraldine S. Howe, Bernice H. Noyes, Vance and Janet Richardson, Faye S. Taylor, and Nell Valentine. Charles Heywood, who did not attend the first meeting, was elected President, and Nell Valentine, Treasurer.



Five decades after its founding, the Bethel Historical Society continues to fulfill the aims of its forerunners, albeit on a scale that its nineteenth century predecessors and twentieth century charter members could little imagine. Under the



management of a trained staff and numerous dedicated volunteers, and supported by financial contributions from members, donors, and granting agencies, BHS has evolved into one of northern New England’s most professional organizations for the study of local and regional history. Today, the Society actively collects, preserves, displays and interprets the history of western Maine and the White Mountain region of Maine and New Hampshire through exhibits, lectures, events, and publications. Its facilities, now known as the “Museums of the Bethel Historical Society,” feature seven exhibit galleries and nine period rooms spread throughout two buildings: the 1821 O’Neil Robinson House and the 1813 Dr. Moses Mason House (the latter a gift in 1974 from The William Bingham 2nd Trust for Charity; photo, left). The Society also maintains an

extensive library and archival collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, and digital files, plus thousands of historic objects, that tell the story of the town of Bethel and surrounding region. As it has over the past fifty years, the Society provides an annual variety of high quality events and programs for people of all ages.

The Bethel Historical Society has indeed come a long way since 1966, thanks in great part to the generous support of many committed members, friends, organizations, and area businesses. With the new “Huntoon Center” nearly ready to receive stored collections, yet another chapter in the “BHS story” is about to begin. We hope you will stay tuned!

Mark Your Calendars for a Golden Evening!

Members and the general public are invited to the Dr. Moses Mason House (14 Broad St.) on May 31 to help BHS celebrate 50 years of collecting, preserving, and sharing this region's history. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, when Executive Director Randall Bennett will share some of the Society's major accomplishments over the past five decades. This presentation will be followed by the highlight of the evening: a special performance of 1920s jazz, ragtime and blues performed by "Miss Maybell and Slimpickins" (Lauren Sansaricq and Erik Koeppel), two young musicians and accomplished plein air artists from Jackson, N.H. And, of course, there will be birthday cake! This free event will be held in the exhibit hall at the Mason House. We hope to see you there!



President's Column

Dear friends,

It's a great pleasure to announce that your generous contributions to our 50th Anniversary Annual Fund Campaign helped us exceed our goal of \$47,000—for which we extend sincere thanks! This wonderful support assures that our doors will remain open throughout 2016 as we celebrate our golden anniversary with a wide-ranging series of high-quality events.

This year's program schedule began on March 26 when the Society and the Ski Museum of Maine collaborated to mark Women's History Month with a presentation entitled "Sisters of Skade: Women in Maine Skiing 1870-2016." (Did you know that Skade is an ancient Norse goddess closely associated with hunting, mountains, winter and skiing?) Then, on April 28, the "Antiquarian Supper"—always interesting and fun—took place at the Mason House, continuing a Bethel tradition begun in 1855. On May 31, fifty years to the day that our association was founded, we'll celebrate that momentous event with special musical entertainment and, of course, a big birthday cake! And on June 24, a loan exhibit from the New England Ski Museum, "The Mountains of Maine: Skiing in the Pine Tree State," will open at the Robinson House. These are just a few of our Golden Anniversary year events. Please visit us, because our exhibits, programs and special events throughout the year are made possible by your donations—so you share ownership in these happenings.

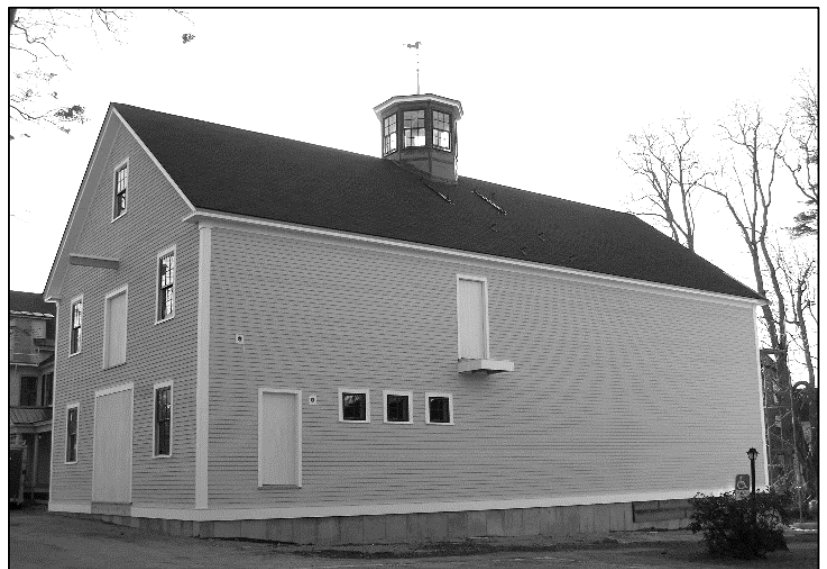
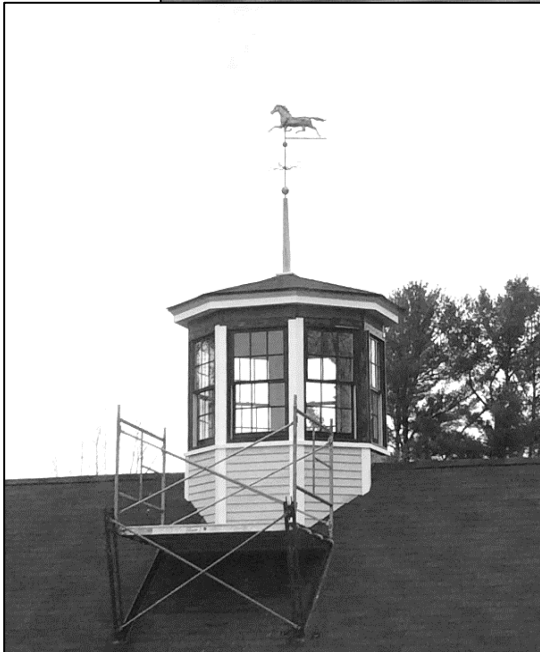
If you have walked or driven by our campus, you cannot miss the on-going construction of the "Charles R. Huntoon Center for Archives, Library and Museum Collections" at the Robinson House. Don't you like the striking eight-sided cupola from which there is a beautiful view? At this point, the building has been fully insulated, the interior spaces (which eventually will be open to the public by appointment) are nearly completed, and most of the exterior has been clapboarded by contractors Dan and Jeremy Gibbs. We are making good progress! Of course, the two large climate-controlled, fireproof vaults inside are our pride and joy. At long last, they will allow us to permanently preserve our extensive collection of documents, photos, maps, and paintings. In the meantime, Will Chapman, our librarian/archivist, is busy re-cataloging hundreds of these items so that many can be posted online where you will be able to study and enjoy them from the comfort of your home.

As you can understand, an incredible amount of work goes on behind the scenes at BHS. The sorting, cleaning, cataloging, and moving of our collections to better storage space takes time and patience. We have been closed for a few months partly for that purpose, but will open up again in late spring with new exhibits and on-site events. Come and participate! All this progress is possible because of your generosity. Thank you, again!

Gratefully,

Tineke Ouwinga
President, Board of Trustees

Recent photos of the Robinson House Phase II expansion project for collections storage



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Loan Exhibit on Maine Ski History Opens in June

On June 24, the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society will open an important exhibit entitled “The Mountains of Maine: Skiing in the Pine Tree State.” On loan from the New England Ski Museum at Franconia Notch, New Hampshire, the display features some sixty photographs and artwork, enhanced with text and captions, drawn from the collections of the NESM, along with numerous contributions from the Ski Museum of Maine. The latter organization, located in Kingfield, was instrumental in securing the exhibition from NESM and plans to loan a number of large-size artifacts to augment the large-scale images in the display.

According to BHS Executive Director Randall Bennett, the loaned exhibit represents a first step in what may be a long-term collaboration between the NESM and the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society, which possesses gallery space adequate enough to accommodate large-scale traveling exhibitions (e.g., “Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon,” a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit held in Bethel between August 19 and October 22, 2005). Once open, the exhibition will be on view Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturdays during July and August. *(Photo of early skiing scene at Poland Spring resort courtesy of Ski Museum of Maine)*



Create a Legacy That Benefits Present and Future Generations

Bequests and Trusts

Donors may make charitable gifts to the Bethel Historical Society in the form of a bequest in a will, the establishment of a trust, or other similar financial arrangements. Such gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while assuring the security of the donor or the donor's family. Please consult your financial advisor as to the type of gift most appropriate for your circumstances.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Collecting, preserving and sharing our local and regional history is what the Bethel Historical Society is all about. At the same time, we realize these goals are important not just for ourselves, but for those who come after us. That's why the Society now offers Charitable Gift Annuities as a way for donors to receive reliable, fixed payments during their lifetime, while providing long-term financial benefits to BHS. Under this gift arrangement, the Society accepts donations of cash or investment securities in exchange for guaranteed lifetime income payments to the donor. Offering an immediate charitable income tax deduction, these gifts can also result in capital gains tax savings if funded with appreciated stock. Rates are based on the donor's age at inception date, and remaining funds in the annuity after the donor's lifetime automatically go into the Society's endowment—providing a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come.

For more information about these and other ways of supporting the Society through planned giving, please contact the Bethel Historical Society's Executive Director, Randall H. Bennett, at 207-824-2908; at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217; or director@bethelhistorical.org. All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.

Rare Albany, Maine, Diaries Purchased for Collection



Thanks to two generous donations to the Society's "Collections Fund," six small, but highly detailed, diaries kept by Jacob Lovejoy (1812-1895), an Albany, Maine, storekeeper, church deacon, postmaster, town treasurer, farmer, and selectman, have been added through purchase to our archival holdings. Currently being transcribed and annotated by Society board member Michael S. Stowell (a major supporter of this project), the diaries—dating from 1863 to 1892—provide an enlightening, in-depth view of daily life in a small, western Maine town during the second half of the nineteenth century. Mr. Stowell plans to complete the transcriptions while summering in Bethel

and will then publish a limited number of copies of the edited transcriptions. The finished volume will be complemented by a selection of historic Albany images from the Bethel Historical Society's collection.



Show your support for local and regional history by joining the Bethel Historical Society!

Membership in the Society provides the following benefits:

- ❖ Free admission to regularly scheduled tours of the Mason House period rooms
- ❖ 10% discount on purchases from the Museum Shop
- ❖ Special research library privileges, including reduced photocopying and "remote research request" fees
- ❖ Subscriptions to the Society's publications, *The Courier* and *The Bethel Athenaeum*, plus e-News announcements
- ❖ Preferred rate for Mason House grounds & exhibit hall rental
- ❖ Voting rights in the Society
- ❖ Reduced course fees

Membership Levels:

___ Senior (over 55) or Student (under 18)	\$15.00
___ Individual (per person)	\$25.00
___ Family (2 adults and all children under 18)	\$50.00
___ Friend (per person)	\$75.00
___ Life (Individual)	\$300.00
___ Life (Couple)	\$400.00

Business Partner level: *please call 207-824-2908 for more information*

All regular memberships are for a calendar year. *New members* who join after July 1 are considered paid through the following year.

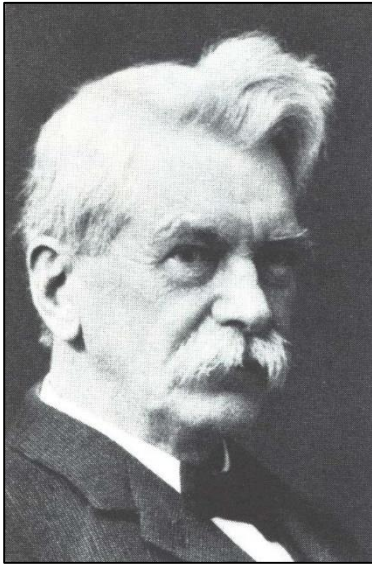
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Please mail with your remittance to: Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012
(For payments by credit card, call 207-824-2908, or visit our website at bethelhistorical.org)

Bethel and Greenwood Historical Societies Collaborate on New Book



To commemorate this year's bicentennial of the Town of Greenwood's incorporation, the Bethel Historical Society and Greenwood Historical Society are teaming up to publish an annotated and illustrated book based on the early 20th century writings of Addison Emery Verrill (1839-1926; photo, left), a Greenwood native and renowned American zoologist who recorded his memories about the early history, natural resources, social life, and genealogy of Greenwood, Maine, in a series of more than two dozen articles for a local paper. The book, which will contain rare photographs and maps provided by Verrill descendants, is being edited by Herb Adams of Portland and Larry Glatz of Scarborough, with formatting and layout by Will Chapman of the Greenwood Historical Society (Chapman also serves as librarian and archivist at the Bethel Historical Society).

The new book is expected to be available in time for Greenwood's official bicentennial celebration in mid-August, and after publication will also be for sale at the Bethel Historical Society's Museum Shop and on its website. Donations in support of this project are already being collected by the Bethel Society, and anyone who makes a financial gift to assist with start-up costs will be recognized in the book's acknowledgments section.



Herb Adams, a Maine historian and politician who teaches at Southern Maine Community College, will present a program about Addison Verrill at the Greenwood Town Hall (on Rt. 26 in Locke's Mills village) on Wednesday, June 1, at 7:00 pm. This free event is sponsored by the Greenwood Historical Society and will include an update on the bicentennial book project.

Bethel Historical Society 2015 Report of Giving

The Bethel Historical Society is pleased to recognize the following donors whose generosity allows the Society to carry out its mission of making the region's history meaningful, accessible, and enjoyable through exhibits, programs, research projects and publications. This list includes contributions received between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor lists. However, in the unfortunate event of an error, please contact BHS Executive Director Randall H. Bennett immediately at 207-824-2908 or director@bethelhistorical.org.

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Donors of new or increased gifts of \$50 or more in recognition of the Society's 50th anniversary (these individuals are also listed under support levels below)

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The Dr. Moses Mason Society honors one of Bethel's most prominent 19th century citizens, and recognizes the generous and visionary donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund Campaign.

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D. A. Wilson & Company, LLC: *transporting antique printing press from Kilborn Street to the Robinson House*

SUMMER EVENTS

Each year, the Bethel Historical Society hosts several special summer events and programs, most of which are free to the public. These events draw people of all ages from far and wide to the Society's Museums on Broad Street. Without the generous support of members and friends, these events would not be possible.

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Stanley R. Howe
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Dave Irons
Eleanor Jodrey
Joan Kronstrand
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Rachel MacKay
Cynthia McFadden
Nancy Mercer
Karen Brown-Mohr
Jan Lord Mott
Winifred Mott
Catherine S.-C. Newell

George and Danna Brown
Nickerson
Tineke Ouwinga
Mary H. and Jeffrey R. Parsons
Roberta C. Pevear
John Poss
David Powers
Robert Remington
Tim and Iris Roberts
Glenn B. Skillin
Steve Smith
John St. Clair
Judy Stalford
Betsy Stowell
Jan Stowell
Michael S. Stowell
Susan B. Strange
Sally Taylor
Estate of Richard C. Valentine
Nancy Stowell White
Ronald Willard

2016 Calendar of Events

- May 31 — **Official Observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Bethel Historical Society**; 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Mason House
- June 24 — **exhibit opening: “The Mountains of Maine: Skiing in the Pine Tree State”**; Robinson House (10 am to 4 pm)
- July — **children's activities Thursday mornings throughout the month**; Mason House and grounds
- July 1 thru August 27, Thursday through Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm; **guided tours of the Mason House period rooms**
- July 2 — One-day only exhibition of 19th and early 20th century **White Mountain landscapes** at Mason House in conjunction with the Bethel Art Fair on the village common
- July 4 — **Community Picnic & Concert**, with music by the Portland Brass Quintet; 11:30 am; side lawn of Mason House
- July 16 — **Robinson House open** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm during Molly Ockett Day
- August 11 — **Molly Ockett program and D.A.R. memorial plaque unveiling**, 3:00 pm, Mason House
Stanley Russell Howe Lecture and book signing by Micah A. Pawling, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies at the University of Maine; 7:00 pm; Mason House
- August 13 — **Addison Verrill's Greenwood, book launch** at Greenwood Historical Society; Rt. 26, Locke's Mills village
- August 14 — **200th anniversary event at Middle Intervale Meetinghouse Society**; short talk on history of meetinghouse; group sing-a-long; ice-cream social under tent; starts at 1:30 pm; Intervale Road off Rt. 26
- September 8 — **BHS Annual Meeting**; 6:30 pm pot-luck supper; program by BHS staff and volunteers regarding collections management upgrades and related technological improvements at BHS; Noll and Historic Preservation awards presented; Mason House
- September 17 — **exhibit opening: “They Took to the Woods”**; Mason House exhibit hall; open through Oct. 8, Tuesday thru Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm; by appointment thereafter until July 2017 when regular hours commence again
- December 3 — **“Christmas at the Mason House”**; enjoy traditional holiday refreshments and decorations in the first floor period rooms in the 1813 Mason House

*Unless otherwise noted, all programs listed above are free and open to the public.
For additional information about these and other upcoming events, visit our website at www.bethelhistorical.org.*

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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